

## ON VISUAL HULLS

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**The concept of visual hull has been introduced by G. H. Meisters and S. Ulam. In the following article we study a few of the problems arising from this notion and, in particular, establish (Theorem 3) a conjecture of W. A. Beyer and S. Ulam.**

Let  $C$  be a set in  $R^n$  and  $1 \leq j \leq n - 1$ . Then the  $j^{\text{th}}$  visual hull  $H_j(C)$  of  $C$  is defined to be the largest set whose  $j^{\text{th}}$  projections are contained in those of  $C$ . Alternatively,  $H_j(C)$  is the set of points  $x$  in  $R^n$  such that each  $(n - j)$ -flat through  $x$  contains a point of  $C$ . Let  $G_j^n$  denote the Grassmannian of  $j$ -subspaces in  $R^n$  with  $\mu_j(G_j^n) = 1$  for the usual measure  $\mu_j$  associated with  $G_j^n$  regarded as a metric  $0_n$ -factorspace. (For further information about  $\mu_j$  compare, for example, [3]). The  $j^{\text{th}}$  virtual hull  $V_j(C)$  of  $C$  is defined to be the set of points  $x \in R^n$  such that almost all (with respect to  $\mu_{n-j}$ )  $(n - j)$ -flats through  $x$  contain a point of  $C$ . Thus, if  $n = 3, j = 2, H_2(C)(V_2(C))$  corresponds to those points in  $R^3$  which are photographically indistinguishable (with probability one) from  $C$ . A  $j^{\text{th}}$  minimal hull of  $C$  in  $R^n$  is a minimal set in  $R^n$  whose  $j^{\text{th}}$  projections coincide with those of  $C$ . In [2] the announced purpose of the paper was to disprove the conjecture that  $H_j(C) - C$  is connected to  $C$ , i.e.,  $\exists$  disjoint open sets  $U, V$  such that  $U \supset H_j(C) - C \neq \emptyset$  and  $V \supset C \neq \emptyset$ . To this we remark that a simple counterexample can be obtained by considering the closed set  $C$  formed by removing the relative interiors of alternate sides of a regular hexagon inscribed in a plane circle with centre  $a$ . The first visual hull  $H_1(C)$  is then  $C \cup \{a\}$ .

### 2. Visual hulls of unions of polytopes.

**THEOREM 1.** *Let  $A_1, \dots, A_{j+1}$  be spherically convex, closed subsets (not necessarily nonempty) of the sphere  $S^{n-1}$ , such that each  $(n - j - 1)$ -subsphere of  $S^{n-1}$  has a nonempty intersection with  $\bigcup_{i=1}^{j+1} A_i$ . Then  $A_1 \cap \dots \cap A_{j+1} \neq \emptyset$ . (so, that, in particular, each set  $A_i$  is nonempty).*

**REMARK.**  $S^{n-1}$  is the unit sphere of  $R^n$  and an  $(n - j - 1)$ -subsphere of  $S^{n-1}$  is the intersection of an  $n - j$  subspace with  $S^{n-1}$ . A set  $C \subset S^{n-1}$  is spherically convex if  $C$  is contained in an open hemisphere of  $S^{n-1}$  and, if  $x, y \in C$  then  $C$  contains the minor arc on the 1-sub-sphere determined by  $x, y$  and 0 (the centre of  $S^{n-1}$ ).

*Proof.* The case  $n = 1$  is trivial. We assume inductively that

the result is true for all  $n' < n$  and it remains to prove the result for  $j + 1$  sets on  $S^{n-1}$ . Assume on the contrary that there exist spherically convex closed subsets  $A_1, \dots, A_{j+1} \subset S^{n-1}$  such that

$$T \cap (A_1 \cup \dots \cup A_{j+1}) \neq \emptyset$$

for each  $(n - j - 1)$ -subsphere  $T$  of  $S^{n-1}$ , and  $A_1 \cap \dots \cap A_{j+1} = \emptyset$ . Let  $A = A_1 \cap \dots \cap A_j$ . Then  $A, A_{j+1}$  are disjoint spherically convex closed subsets of  $S^{n-1}$ , and there exists an  $(n - 2)$ -subsphere  $S'$  of  $S^{n-1}$  which separates  $A$  and  $A_{j+1}$  and such that  $S' \cap A = \emptyset, S' \cap A_{j+1} = \emptyset$ . Set  $A'_i = A_i \cap S'$  ( $1 \leq i \leq j$ ). Then each  $A'_i$  is a spherically convex closed subset of  $S'$  and, since  $A_{j+1} \cap S' = \emptyset$ , each  $(n - j - 1)$ -subsphere of  $S'$  has a nonempty intersection with  $A'_1 \cup \dots \cup A'_j$ . Hence by the inductive assumption  $A'_1 \cap \dots \cap A'_j = A \cap S' \neq \emptyset$ ; contradiction.

**THEOREM 2.** *In  $R^n$  let  $C_1, \dots, C_{j+1}$  be  $j + 1$  compact convex sets. If  $x \in H_j(\bigcup_{i=1}^{j+1} C_i)$  then either  $x \in \bigcup_{i=1}^{j+1} C_i$  or there exists a halfline  $l$  emanating from  $x$  such that  $l \cap C_i \neq \emptyset, 1 \leq i \leq j + 1$ .*

**COROLLARY.** *In  $R^n$  let  $C_1, \dots, C_{j+1}$  be compact convex sets. Then a sufficient condition for  $H_j(\bigcup_{i=1}^{j+1} C_i) = \bigcup_{i=1}^{j+1} C_i$  is that the sets do not have a common transversal.*

*Proof.* On  $S^{n-1}$  define  $j + 1$  spherically convex closed subsets  $A_1, \dots, A_{j+1}$  so that  $u \in A_i$  if  $u \in S^{n-1}$  and the half line  $\{x + \lambda u \mid \lambda \geq 0\}$  meets  $C_i$ . Then, as  $x \in H_j(\bigcup_{i=1}^{j+1} C_i)$  each  $(n - j - 1)$ -subsphere of  $S^{n-1}$  has a nonempty intersection with  $\bigcup_{i=1}^{j+1} A_i$ . And so, by Theorem 1, there exists  $u \in \bigcap_{i=1}^{j+1} A_i$ , i.e., the halfline  $\{x + \lambda u \mid \lambda \geq 0\}$  meets each of  $C_1, \dots, C_{j+1}$ .

**THEOREM 3.** *In  $R^n$  let  $C_1, \dots, C_{j+1}$  be nonempty compact convex sets. Then the number of components of  $H_j(\bigcup_{i=1}^{j+1} C_i)$  is at most  $j + 1$  with equality if and only if  $C_1, \dots, C_{j+1}$  are pairwise disjoint.*

*Proof.* By Theorem 2, if  $x \in H_j(\bigcup_{i=1}^{j+1} C_i) - \bigcup_{i=1}^{j+1} C_i$ , then there exists a halfline  $l = \{x + \lambda u \mid \lambda \geq 0\}$  such that  $l$  meets each of

$$C_1, \dots, C_{j+1}.$$

Then  $x + \alpha_k u \in C_k$  for some  $\alpha_k > 0$ . We set  $\alpha = \min\{\alpha_k \mid 1 \leq k \leq j + 1\}$  and want to show that  $x + \lambda u \in H_j(\bigcup_{i=1}^{j+1} C_i)$  for all  $\lambda$  with  $0 \leq \lambda \leq \alpha$ . Set  $y = x + \lambda u$  and let  $P$  be an  $(n - j)$ -subspace. As  $x \in H_j(\bigcup_{i=1}^{j+1} C_i)$  there exists  $i$  such that the  $(n - j)$ -flat  $x + P$  meets  $C_i$  at  $v$ , say. Set  $z = x + \alpha_i u \in C_i$ . Then, as  $y$  lies between  $x$  and  $z$  on  $l$ , there exists  $\mu, 0 \leq \mu \leq 1$ , such that  $y = \mu x + (1 - \mu)z$ . Then the  $(n - j)$ -flat  $y + P$  through  $y$  contains the point  $\mu v + (1 - \mu)z$  of  $C_i$ . As  $P$

was arbitrary we conclude that  $y \in H_j(\mathbf{U}_{i=1}^{j+1} C_i)$  and hence that  $x + \lambda u \in H_j(\mathbf{U}_{i=1}^{j+1} C_i)$  for  $0 \leq \lambda \leq \alpha$ . Hence, if  $x \in H_j(\mathbf{U}_{i=1}^{j+1} C_i)$  then  $x$  is connected, via a line segment in  $H_j(\mathbf{U}_{i=1}^{j+1} C_i)$ , to at least one of the sets  $C_i$ . Hence  $H_j(\mathbf{U}_{i=1}^{j+1} C_i)$  has at most  $j + 1$  components with equality only if the  $C_i$ 's are disjoint. If the sets  $C_1, \dots, C_{j+1}$  are pairwise disjoint then in order to show that  $H_j(\mathbf{U}_{i=1}^{j+1} C_i)$  has exactly  $j + 1$  components it is enough to show that for each  $k, 1 \leq k \leq j + 1$ , there exist disjoint open sets  $U_k, V_k$  such that  $U_k \cup V_k \supset H_j(\mathbf{U}_{i=1}^{j+1} C_i)$  and  $U_k \supset C_k, V_k \supset \{C_1 \cup \dots \cup C_{k-1} \cup C_{k+1} \cup \dots \cup C_{j+1}\}$ . We suppose, without loss of generality, that  $k = 1$ . For  $i = 2, \dots, j + 1$  let  $H_i$  denote a hyperplane which strictly separates  $C_1$  from  $C_i$ , and let  $H_i^0$  be the open halfspace bounded by  $H_i$  and containing  $C_1$ . We can assume that the  $H_i$ 's are in general position. Set  $U_1 = \bigcap_{i=2}^{j+1} H_i^0, V_1 = R^n - \bar{U}_1$ . Then  $U_1$  and  $V_1$  are disjoint open sets,  $C_1 \subset U_1, \mathbf{U}_{i=2}^{j+1} C_i \subset V_1$ . It remains to show that  $H_j(\mathbf{U}_{i=1}^{j+1} C_i) \subset U_1 \cup V_1$ , and it is enough to show that  $(\bar{U}_1 \cap \bar{V}_1) \cap H_j(\mathbf{U}_{i=1}^{j+1} C_i) = \emptyset$ . Since the  $H_i$ 's are in general position, their intersection  $\bigcap_{i=2}^{j+1} H_i$  is an  $(n - j)$ -dimensional flat  $L$ . Let  $I$  be the  $j$ -dimensional subspace orthogonal to  $L$ . If  $M$  is any subset of  $R^n$  we denote by  $\text{proj}_I M$  the set of all points  $x \in I$  for which the flat  $L_x$ , which is parallel to  $L$  and contains  $x$ , has a nonempty intersection with  $M$ .  $\text{proj}_I U_1$  and  $\text{proj}_I V_1$  are two open sets in  $I$  with common boundary  $\text{proj}_I(\bar{U}_1 \cap \bar{V}_1)$ . As  $\text{proj}_I C_1 \subset \text{proj}_I U_1, \text{proj}_I \mathbf{U}_{i=2}^{j+1} C_i \subset \text{proj}_I V_1$  it follows that  $(\text{proj}_I(\bar{U}_1 \cap \bar{V}_1)) \cap (\text{proj}_I \mathbf{U}_{i=1}^{j+1} C_i) = \emptyset$ . Now, if  $z$  is an arbitrary point in  $\bar{U}_1 \cap \bar{V}_1$  it follows that  $L_z \cap (\mathbf{U}_{i=1}^{j+1} C_i) = \emptyset$ , and since  $\dim L_z = n - j$ , we find, by the definition of  $H_j$ , that  $z$  does not belong to  $H_j(\mathbf{U}_{i=1}^{j+1} C_i)$ . Therefore  $(\bar{U}_1 \cap \bar{V}_1) \cap H_j(\mathbf{U}_{i=1}^{j+1} C_i) = \emptyset$ .

REMARKS. The proof of Theorem 3 also shows that any component of  $H_j(\mathbf{U}_{i=1}^{j+1} C_i)$  has the property that any two points of it can be joined by a broken line in it, consisting of at most 3 segments. Hence it is natural to ask: When are these components convex? (supposing now that the  $C_i$ 's are disjoint). In [1] W. A. Beyer has shown an example of three (nondisjoint) polytopes  $C_i$  in  $R^3$  such that  $H_2(C_1 \cup C_2 \cup C_3)$  is not a polyhedron. We don't know whether a similar construction would be possible with disjoint polytopes. Let us mention here a few more technical terms. If  $M$  is any subset of  $R^n$ , we denote by  $\text{aff } M$  the affine hull of  $M$  and by  $\text{conv } M$  the convex hull of  $M$ .  $\text{relint } M$  means the interior of  $M$  with respect to the natural topology in  $\text{aff } M$ . By the dimension  $\dim M$  of  $M$  we understand the algebraic dimension of the flat  $\text{aff } M$ . A polytope is the convex hull of some finite set. If  $P \subset E^n$  is a convex set we denote by  $\text{ext } P$  the set of extreme points of  $P$  and by  $\text{exp } P$  the set of its exposed points. For an exact definition of these terms the reader may compare, for example, the introductory chapters of [4].

**THEOREM 4.** (i) *In  $R^n$  let  $C_1, C_2$  be compact convex sets. Then  $H_1(C_1 \cup C_2)$  is the union of at most two convex components which are polytopes whenever  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  are polytopes.*

(ii) *There exist in  $R^3$  three disjoint polytopes such that one of the components of the second visual hull of their union is not convex.*

**LEMMA 1.** *Let  $C_1, C_2$  be  $n$ -dimensional polytopes in  $R^n$ . If  $a \in H_1(C_1 \cup C_2)$  there exists a hyperplane  $H$  such that*

- (1)  $a \in H$ ,  $H$  separates  $a$  from  $C_1$
- (2)  $H \cap C_i = \emptyset$  or  $H$  supports  $C_i$  ( $i = 1, 2$ )
- (3)  $\text{aff}(H \cap (C_1 \cup C_2)) = H$ .

*Proof of Lemma 1.* The case  $n = 1$  is trivial, and we assume  $n \geq 2$ . If there exists a hyperplane  $P$  through  $a$  which does not meet  $C_1 \cup C_2$  and does not separate  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  then  $\text{conv}(C_1 \cup C_2)$  is an  $n$ -dimensional polytope not containing  $a$ , and the lemma follows from standard results on polytopes. Hence it can be supposed that there is a hyperplane  $H$  for which (1) and also (2'):  $H$  separates  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  holds. We choose  $H$  in the set  $\mathfrak{S}$  of hyperplanes for which (1) and (2') holds. We assume that  $h = \dim \text{aff } T$  is maximal, where  $T = H \cap (C_1 \cup C_2)$ . Obviously  $h \geq 0$ . If  $h < n - 1$ , let  $F \subset H$  be an  $(n - 2)$ -dimensional hyperplane in  $H$  containing  $T$ , and denote by  $\pi: R^n \rightarrow E$  the projection along  $F$  onto a 2-dimensional flat  $E$  orthogonal to  $F$ . It is easy to see that there is a line  $L$  in  $E$  such that: ( $\alpha$ ): the singleton  $\pi(T)$  is contained in  $L$ . ( $\beta$ ):  $\pi(a) \notin L$ ,  $L$  separates  $\pi(a)$  from the polygon  $\pi(C_1)(\gamma)$ :  $L$  separates  $\pi(C_1)$  and  $\pi(C_2)$ .

$$(\delta) \text{aff}(L \cap (\pi(C_1) \cup \pi(C_2))) = L.$$

(Notice that the conditions ( $\alpha$ ) - ( $\gamma$ ) are fulfilled by  $\pi(H)$ ). The hyperplane  $\pi^{-1}(L)$  of  $E^n$  intersects  $C_1 \cup C_2$  in a set  $S$  with  $\dim \text{aff } S = h + 1$ . Since  $S \in \mathfrak{S}$  this contradicts the maximality of  $h$ . Hence the lemma is established.

*Proof of Theorem 4.* (i) We first prove the result when  $C_1, C_2$  are  $n$ -dimensional polytopes. If  $C_1 \cap C_2 \neq \emptyset$  then

$$H_1(C_1 \cup C_2) = \text{conv}(C_1 \cup C_2),$$

which is a polytope. We suppose therefore that  $C_1 \cap C_2 = \emptyset$ . Let  $\{H_i\}_{i=1}^m$  be the finite set of those hyperplanes which do not contain an interior of  $C_j$  ( $j = 1, 2$ ) and for which  $\dim(H_i \cap (C_1 \cup C_2)) = n - 1$ . By  $C_j^*$  we denote the (finite) intersection of those closed half spaces which contain  $C_j$  and whose bounding hyperplane is amongst  $\{H_i\}_{i=1}^m$ ,  $j = 1, 2$ . Then  $C_j^*$  is polyhedral and, since  $C_1, C_2$  are compact,  $C_j^*$  is a polytope,

$j = 1, 2$ . We show that  $H_1(C_1 \cup C_2) = C_1^* \cup C_2^*$ . Suppose that  $x^* \notin C_1^* \cup C_2^*$ . Then there exist closed halfspaces  $H_1^*, H_2^*$  with bounding hyperplanes  $H_1, H_2$  amongst  $\{H_i\}_{i=1}^m$  such that  $x^* \in H_1^* \supset C_1, x^* \in H_2^* \supset C_2$ . If

$$x^* \in H_1(C_1 \cup C_2), H_1 \quad \text{and} \quad H_2$$

must separate  $C_1$  and  $C_2$ . Consider  $H_1$  and the two disjoint compact sets  $H_1 \cap C_1, H_1 \cap C_2$  in  $H_1$ . There exists an  $n - 2$  dimensional flat  $L$  in  $H_1$  which strictly separates  $H_1 \cap C_1$  and  $H_1 \cap C_2$ . By slightly rotating  $H_1$  about  $L$  in the appropriate direction we obtain a hyperplane  $H_1'$  which strictly separates  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  as well as  $x^*$  and  $C_1$ . Similarly we can obtain a hyperplane  $H_2'$  which strictly separates  $C_1$  and  $C_2$ , and  $x^*$  and  $C_2$ . We may suppose that  $H_1', H_2'$  are not parallel and so  $H_1' \cap H_2'$  is an  $n - 2$  flat. Suppose, without loss of generality, that  $H_1' = \{x \mid \langle x, \xi \rangle = \alpha > 0\}, H_2' = \{x \mid \langle x, \eta \rangle = \beta > 0\}$ . Then

$$C_1 \subset \{x \mid \langle x, \xi \rangle > \alpha\} \cap \{x \mid \langle x, \eta \rangle > \beta\}$$

$$C_2 \subset \{x \mid \langle x, \eta \rangle < \alpha\} \cap \{x \mid \langle x, \eta \rangle < \beta\}.$$

Consider the hyperplane  $H: \{x \mid \langle x, \lambda\xi + (1 - \lambda)\eta \rangle = 0\}$ , where  $\lambda\alpha + (1 - \lambda)\beta = 0$  and  $0 < \lambda < 1$ . Then  $x^* \in H$  and, using the above inequalities,  $C_i \cap H = \emptyset, i = 1, 2$ . Hence  $x^*$  is not in  $H_1(C_1 \cup C_2)$ , and we have  $H_1(C_1 \cup C_2) \subset C_1^* \cup C_2^*$ . Conversely, if  $x^* \in C_1^* \cup C_2^* - H_1(C_1 \cup C_2)$ , suppose without loss of generality that  $x^* \in C_1^*$ . Then, by Lemma 1, there exists a hyperplane  $H$  amongst  $\{H_i\}_{i=1}^m$  which does not contain  $x^*$  and which separates  $x^*$  from  $C_1$ . Then, if  $H^*$  denotes the closed halfspace containing  $C_1$  whose bounding hyperplane is  $H, x^* \notin H^*$  and so  $x^* \in C_1^*$ ; contradiction. And so  $H_1(C_1 \cup C_2) = C_1^* \cup C_2^*$ , which is the union of two polytopes. If  $C_1, C_2$  are compact convex sets we choose decreasing sequences  $\{P_1^n\}_{n=1}^\infty, \{P_2^n\}_{n=1}^\infty$  of polytopes such that  $C_i = \bigcap_{n=1}^\infty P_i^n, i = 1, 2$ . Then, using the above notation,

$$H_1(C_1 \cup C_2) = \bigcap_{n=1}^\infty P_1^{n*} \cap \bigcap_{n=1}^\infty P_2^{n*}.$$

(ii) Let  $W$  be the cube  $\{x = (x_1, x_2, x_3) \mid -1 \leq x_i \leq 1, i = 1, 2, 3\}$  in  $R^3$ , and denote by  $W_i$  the facet of  $W$  defined by  $x_i = 1$ . Set  $C_1 = W_1, C_2 = 2W_2, C_3 = 3W_3$ . Let  $B_i(1 \leq i \leq 3)$  be the components of  $H_2(\bigcup_{i=1}^3 C_i)$ , where the indices are chosen such that, for all  $i, C_i \subset B_i$ . Clearly  $(0, 0, 0) \in B_1$  as does, of course, the point  $(1, -1, -1) \in B_1 \cap C_1$ . However we show that the line segment  $m: \{x = \lambda(1, -1, -1) \mid 0 < \lambda < 1\}$  is not in  $B_1$ . Now  $C_1 \cup C_2$  is contained in the halfspace  $\{x \mid \langle x, (0, 1, 1) \rangle \geq 0\}$  whose bounding hyperplane  $P$  passes through the points  $(0, 0, 0), (1, -1, 1)$  and  $(-1, -1, 1)$ ;  $P \cap \text{aff } W_1$  is a line in direction  $(0, -1, 1)$ . If  $y \in m$ , then  $y = \mu(1, -1, -1)$  for some  $\mu, 0 < \mu < 1$ . Consider the line  $l = y + \{\lambda(0, -1, 1) \mid \lambda \text{ real}\}$ . If  $z = (z_1, z_2, z_3) \in l$  then  $z_1 = \mu < 1$ ,

i.e.,  $z \notin C_1$ . Also  $\langle z, (0, 1, 1) \rangle = -2\mu < 0$  which means that  $z \notin C_1 \cup C_2$ . Therefore  $l$  does not meet  $C_1 \cup C_2 \cup C_3$ ,  $m$  does not belong to  $B_1$ , and  $B_1$  is not convex.

In [6] V. L. Klee proved that if all  $j^{\text{th}}$  projections of a compact convex body  $C$  in  $R^n$  ( $j$  fixed  $\geq 2$ ) are polytopes, then  $C$  is a polytope. As a partial analogue to this for unions of two convex bodies we prove

**THEOREM 5.** *Let  $C_1, C_2$  be two disjoint compact convex bodies in  $R^n$  such that each  $j^{\text{th}}$  projection of  $C_1 \cup C_2$  ( $j$  fixed  $\geq 2$ ) is the union of two polytopes. Then (i)  $\text{ext}(C_i) = \text{exp}(C_i)$  and  $\text{ext}(C_i)$  is countable ( $i = 1, 2$ ) but (ii)  $\text{ext}(C_i)$  is not necessarily finite.*

*Proof.* Let  $a$  be an extreme point of  $C_1$  and we suppose, without loss of generality, that  $a = 0$ , the origin of  $R^n$ . Then, to prove (i) it is enough to prove that the convex cone  $K$  of outward normals to  $C_1$  at 0 is  $n$ -dimensional. We assume that  $\dim K \leq n - 1$  so that  $K$  is contained in an  $(n - 1)$ -subspace  $P_1$ , and seek a contradiction. Let  $P_2$  be an  $(n - 1)$ -subspace which supports  $C_1$  at 0. Of course  $P_1 \neq P_2$ . We can choose an  $(n - 1)$ -subspace  $P_3$  so that there exists a translate of  $P_3$  which strictly separates  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  and such that the normal to  $P_3$  at 0 intersects  $P_1$  only at 0. Then  $P_2 \cap P_3$  is a subspace of dimension at least  $n - 2$  and we choose an  $n - j$  subspace  $Q$  in  $P_2 \cap P_3$ . The orthogonal complement  $S$  of  $Q$  in  $R^n$  is a  $j$ -dimensional subspace which meets  $P_1$  in a  $(j - 1)$ -subspace. The projection of  $C_1 \cup C_2$  onto  $S$  is the union of two polytopes. Further, as  $P_3 \cap C_2 = \emptyset$ , 0 is at positive distance from  $\text{proj } C_2$ . As 0 is an extreme point of  $\text{proj } C_1$ , it follows that 0 is a locally polyhedral extreme point for  $\text{proj } C_1$ . Hence, in  $S$ , the cone of outward normals to  $\text{proj } C_1$  at 0 is  $j$ -dimensional. Further, any  $(j - 1)$ -plane  $H$  of support in  $S$  to  $\text{proj } C_1$  at 0 can be extended to an  $(n - 1)$ -plane of support  $H + Q$  in  $R^n$  to  $C_1$  at 0. Also, the outward normals to these planes form a  $j$ -dimensional convex cone lying in  $S$ . Hence  $j = \dim(K \cap S) = \dim(P_1 \cap S) = j - 1$ ; contradiction. And so (i) is proved.

To prove (ii) we construct an example in  $R^3$  of two convex bodies  $C_1, C_2$ , both of which have a countable infinity of extreme points but, nevertheless, each 2-projection of  $C_1 \cup C_2$  is the union of two convex polygons. Let  $l = \{x \mid x_1 = x_2 = 0, -1 \leq x_3 \leq 1\}$  be a line segment and  $S = \{x \mid (x_1 - 1)^2 + x_2^2 = 1, x_3 = 0\}$  a plane circle. By  $T$  we denote the set of those points on  $S$  with  $x_2$ -coordinate  $\pm(1/n)$  for  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ . We take  $C_1 = \text{conv}\{l \cup T\}$ , which is a compact convex body in  $R^3$  with extreme points  $T \cup \{(0, 0, -1), (0, 0, 1)\}$ . It is easily seen that there is precisely one 2-projection of  $C_1$  which is not a convex polygon, and that is in the direction  $(0, 0, 1)$ . Further the only limit point of extreme points of this projection is  $(0, 0, 0)$ . Define  $C_2$  as a disjoint copy of

$C_1$  formed by placing  $C_2$  above  $C_1$  in such a way that their respective major lines pierce the centres of their respective circles. From above, every 2-projection of  $C_1 \cup C_2$  is the union of two convex polygons and both  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  are compact bodies with a countable infinity of extreme points.

3. Visual hulls of more general sets. The following problem can be formulated.

*Is the visual (virtual) (minimal) hull of a borel (analytic) set in  $R^n$  necessarily borel (analytic)?*

The answer is affirmative (Theorem 6) for virtual hulls and negative (Theorem 7) for minimal hulls. Whilst it is not true (Theorem 8) that the  $j^{\text{th}}$  visual hull of a borel set is necessarily borel, we have been unable to decide whether or not the  $j^{\text{th}}$  visual hull of a borel or of an analytic set is always analytic, except in the cases covered by Theorem 9. It is possible also that the  $j^{\text{th}}$  visual hull of a convex borel (analytic) set is a borel (analytic) set, and we include some partial results (Theorem 9) in this direction. As before we denote by  $G_j^n$  the Grassmannian of  $j$ -subspaces of  $R^n$  and by  $\mu_j$  the invariant (with respect to  $\mathfrak{O}_n$  acting in the usual way on  $G_j^n$ ) measure normalised so that  $\mu_j(G_j^n) = 1$ .

LEMMA 2. *Let  $A$  be an analytic set in  $R^n$  and denote by  $A^*$  the set of those  $j$ -subspaces in  $G_j^n$  which meet  $A$ . Then*

- (i)  *$A^*$  is an analytic set in  $G_j^n$  and hence  $A^*$  is  $\mu_j$  measurable.*
- (ii) *If  $\mu_j(A^*) > a$  then there exists a compact subset  $A'$  of  $A$  such that  $\mu_j(A'^*) > a$ .*
- (iii) *If  $A_1 \subset A_2 \subset \dots$  is an increasing sequence of analytic sets in  $R^n$  then  $\mu_j(\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i)^* = \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \mu_j(A_i^*)$ .*
- (iv) *If  $A_1 \supset A_2 \supset \dots$  is a decreasing sequence of analytic sets in  $R^n$  then  $\mu_j(\bigcap_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i)^* = \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \mu_j(A_i^*)$ .*

*Proof.* (i) Let  $I$  be the set of irrational numbers in  $[0, 1]$  and, if  $i = (i_1, \dots, i_n, \dots)$  is a typical member of  $I$  expressed as a continued fraction, set  $i|n = (i_1, \dots, i_n)$ . Then, as  $A$  is analytic, it can be represented as  $A = \sum_{i \in I} \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A(i|n)$  where the sets  $A(i|n)$  form, for each fixed  $i$ , a decreasing sequence of compact subsets of  $R^n$ . Then  $A^* = \sum_{i \in I} \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A^*(i|n)$ . As each  $A^*(i|n)$  is a compact subset of  $G_j^n$ , we conclude that  $A^*$  is an analytic set.

(ii) If  $\mu_j(A^*) > a + \delta$  with  $\delta > 0$ , then we can choose  $m_1, 1 \leq m_1 < \infty$ , such that if  $I_1$  denotes the set of irrational numbers

$$i = (i_1 \dots i_n \dots)$$

with  $1 \leq i_1 \leq m_1$  and  $A_1^* = \sum_{i \in I_1} \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A^*(i|n)$  then  $\mu_j(A_1^*) > a + \delta$ .

Proceeding by induction we may define natural numbers  $m_p, 1 \leq p < \infty$ , such that if  $I_q$  denotes the subset of those irrationals  $i$  with  $1 \leq i_p \leq m_p$  for  $p = 1, \dots, q$ , and  $A_q^* = \sum_{i \in I_q} \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} A^*(i | n)$  then  $\mu_j(A_q^*) > a + \delta$ . Let  $I'$  be the compact subset of  $[0, 1]$  defined as the set of those irrational numbers  $i$  for which  $1 \leq i_p \leq m_p$  for  $p = 1, 2, \dots$ , and

$$A'^* = \sum_{i \in I'} \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} A^*(i | n).$$

Then  $\bigcap_{q=1}^{\infty} A_q^* = A'^*$  and so  $\mu_j(A'^*) \geq a + \delta > a$ . Also

$$A' = \sum_{i \in I'} \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} A(i | n)$$

is a compact subset of  $A$ , as  $I'$  is a compact subset of  $I$ .

(iii)  $\mu_j(\mathbf{U}_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i)^* = \mu_j(\mathbf{U}_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i^*) = \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \mu_j(A_i^*)$ .

(iv) Clearly  $\mu_j(\bigcap_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i)^* \leq \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \mu_j(A_i^*)$ . Now set  $\mu_j(\bigcap_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i)^* = a$  and suppose  $\lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \mu_j(A_i^*) > a + \varepsilon$ , for some positive number  $\varepsilon$ . By (ii) we find a compact set  $B_1 \subset A_1$  such that  $\mu_j(B_1^*) \geq \mu_j(A_1^*) - \varepsilon/2$ . Now we have  $A_2^* = (B_1 \cap A_2)^* \cup (A_2^* - B_1^*)$ , where

$$A_2^* - B_1^* = \{F \in G_j^n \mid F \cap A_2 \neq \emptyset, \text{ but } F \cap B_1 = \emptyset\}.$$

Since  $A_2^* \subset A_1^*$  we derive further  $A_2^* \subset (B_1 \cap A_2)^* \cup (A_1^* - B_1^*)$ , or  $\mu_j(A_2^*) \leq \mu_j(B_1 \cap A_2)^* + \varepsilon/2$ . Since  $B_1 \cap A_2$  is analytic there exists, again by (ii), a compact set  $B_2 \subset (B_1 \cap A_2)$  such that

$$\mu_j(B_2^*) \geq \mu_j(B_1 \cap A_2)^* - \varepsilon/4$$

and consequently  $\mu_j(B_2^*) \geq \mu_j(A_2^*) - (\varepsilon/2 + \varepsilon/4)$ . Continuing this process we obtain a decreasing sequence  $\{B_i\}_{i=1}^{\infty}$  of compact subsets of  $R^n$  such that  $B_i \subset A_i, i = 1, 2, \dots$ , and  $\mu_j(B_i^*) \geq \mu_j(A_i^*) - \sum_{p=1}^i \varepsilon/(2^p)$ . Then  $\bigcap_{i=1}^{\infty} B_i^* = (\bigcap_{i=1}^{\infty} B_i)^* \subset (\bigcap_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i)^*$ , and  $\mu_j(\bigcap_{i=1}^{\infty} B_i^*) = \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \mu_j(B_i^*) \leq a$ ; but also  $\lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \mu_j(B_i^*) \geq \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \mu_j(A_i^*) - \varepsilon$ . Combining the last two inequalities we find  $\lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \mu_j(A_i) \leq a + \varepsilon$ , a contradiction.

**THEOREM 6.** *Let  $C$  be a borel (analytic) set in  $R^n$ . Then the  $j^{\text{th}}$  virtual hull  $V_j(C)$  is a borel (analytic) set.*

*Proof.* Suppose first that  $C$  is a borel set in  $R^n$ , and we need to show that  $V_j(C)$  is a borel set. If  $D$  is a subset of  $R^n$  and  $x \in R^n$ , let  $D[x, n - j]$  denote the set of those  $n - j$  subspaces  $F$  in  $G_{n-j}^n$  such that  $(x + F) \cap D \neq \emptyset$ . If  $0 < \lambda < 1$  let  $D(n - j, \lambda)$  be the set of all  $x$  in  $R^n$  such that  $\mu_{n-j}(D[x, n - j]) > \lambda$ . Let  $B$  denote the largest family of subsets of  $R^n$  such that  $D \in B$  if (i)  $D$  is a borel set in  $R^n$ . (ii)  $D(n - j, \lambda)$  is a borel set for all  $\lambda, 0 < \lambda < 1$ . We shall prove that  $B$  coincides with the family of borel subsets of  $R^n$ , and it is enough.

to show that  $B$  contains the open sets and is closed under the operations of increasing union and decreasing intersection. If  $D$  is an open subset of  $R^n$ , then it is easy to see that  $D(n - j, \lambda)$  is open for all  $\lambda, 0 < \lambda < 1$ , and so  $B$  contains all the open sets. Now suppose that  $\{E_i\}_{i=1}^\infty$  is an increasing sequence of sets in  $B$  and set  $E = \bigcup_{i=1}^\infty E_i$ . We want to show that for each  $\lambda, 0 < \lambda < 1$ , the equality  $E(n - j, \lambda) = \bigcup_{i=1}^\infty E_i(n - j, \lambda)$  holds. In order to do this we observe the following equivalences:  $x \in E(n - j, \lambda) \leftrightarrow \mu_{n-j}(E[x, n - j]) > \lambda \leftrightarrow \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \lambda_{n-j}(E_i[x, n - j]) > \lambda \leftrightarrow x \in \bigcup_{i=1}^\infty E_i(n - j, \lambda)$ . Here the first equivalence holds by definition, the second one follows directly from Lemma 2, (iii), if we observe that this lemma remains true if  $M^*$  denotes, for each  $M \subset R^n$ , the set  $M[x, n - j]$  ( $x \in R^n$  fixed). (The lemma itself is stated for the special case where  $x$  is the origin of  $R^n$ .) The last equivalence again follows immediately from the definitions, we only have to observe that the sequence  $\{E_i\}_{i=1}^\infty$  is increasing. Now suppose that  $\{H_i\}_{i=1}^\infty$  is a decreasing sequence of subsets of  $B$  and set  $H = \bigcap_{i=1}^\infty H_i$ . Suppose  $\lambda$  fixed,  $0 < \lambda < 1$ , and let  $m$  be a natural number such that  $\lambda + 1/m < 1$ . Then, using (iv) of Lemma 2, we find by an argument analogous to the one above,  $H(n - j, \lambda) = \bigcup_{p=m}^\infty \bigcap_{i=1}^\infty H_i(n - j, \lambda + 1/p)$ . Hence  $H(n - j, \lambda)$  is a borel set, and  $H \in B$ . Therefore,  $B$  is the family of borel subsets of  $R^n$  and so, in particular,  $C \in B$ . Further  $V_j(C) = \bigcap_{p=2}^\infty C(n - j, 1 - (1/p))$  and so  $V_j(C)$  is a borel set.

To show that  $V_j(A)$  is analytic whenever  $A$  is analytic, we use the well known result that there exists an  $F_{\sigma\delta}$  set  $K$  in  $R^{n+1}$  such that  $A$  is the orthogonal projection  $\text{proj } K$  of  $K$  into  $R^n$  (see, for example, [8]). Call an  $(n - j + 1)$ -subspace  $H$  of  $R^{n+1}$  upright if  $H$  has the form  $\{\hat{H} + \lambda(0, \dots, 0, 1) \mid -\infty < \lambda < \infty\}$  where  $\hat{H} \in G_{n-j}^n$ . Let  $U_{j+1}$  be the set of upright  $(n - j + 1)$ -subspaces in  $R^{n+1}$  with the measure  $\mu'$  induced by  $\mu_{n-j}$  in the obvious manner. We can define  $U_{j+1}(C)$  of a set  $C$  in  $R^{n+1}$  as the set of all those points  $x$  in  $R^{n+1}$  such that almost all (with respect to  $\mu'$ ) upright  $(n - j + 1)$ -flats through  $x$  meet  $C$ . As above, it can be shown that  $U_{j+1}(C)$  is a borel set whenever  $C$  is a borel set. Clearly  $\text{proj } U_{j+1}(K) = V_j(A)$  and, since the projection of a borel set is analytic, we conclude that  $V_j(A)$  is an analytic subset of  $R^n$ .

**THEOREM 7.** *Let  $C$  be an open convex subset of  $R^n$ . Then assuming the continuum hypothesis,  $C$  contains a minimal  $j^{\text{th}}$  hull  $D$  such that every analytic subset of  $D$  is countable.<sup>1</sup>*

*Proof.* We assume the continuum hypothesis and let  $\Omega$  be the

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<sup>1</sup> As the referee pointed out, Theorem 7 may be a special case of a much more general theorem on effective constructions.

first uncountable ordinal. Let  $\{A_\xi\}_{\xi < \Omega}$  be an enumeration of the analytic subsets of  $R^n$  of  $(n - j)$ -dimensional measure zero; let  $\{H_\xi\}_{\xi < \Omega}$  be an enumeration of the  $(n - j)$ -flats which meet  $C$ . Let  $F$  be a fixed  $(n - j)$ -subspace of  $R^n$  and denote by  $\alpha$  a fixed set, which is not a point of  $R^n$ . We now choose a set  $E = \{M_\xi\}_{\xi < \Omega}$  and a collection of translates  $\{F_\xi\}_{\xi < \Omega}$  of  $F$  inductively as follows. Take  $M_1 \in (H_1 - A_1) \cap C$  and let  $F_1$  be a translate of  $F$  through  $M_1$ . Suppose now that  $M_{\xi'}, F_{\xi'}$  have been defined for all  $\xi' < \xi$ , where  $\xi$  is some ordinal proceeding  $\Omega$ . If  $H_\xi$  is a translate of  $F$  we take  $F_\xi = H_\xi$  and consider two possibilities:

(a) If  $\exists \xi' < \xi$  such that  $M_{\xi'} \in H_\xi$  then we take  $M_\xi = \alpha$ .

(b) If  $\exists \xi' < \xi$  such that  $M_{\xi'} \in H_\xi$  we choose  $M_\xi$  in the set  $(H_\xi - (\bigcup_{\xi' < \xi} H_{\xi'} \cup \bigcup_{\xi' < \xi} A_{\xi'})) \cap C$ . Such a choice is possible as  $H_\xi \cap C$  has positive  $(n - j)$ -dimensional measure whereas  $H_\xi \cap (\bigcup_{\xi' < \xi} H_{\xi'} \cup \bigcup_{\xi' < \xi} A_{\xi'})$  has zero  $(n - j)$ -dimensional measure, being a countable union of sets of measure zero. If  $H_\xi$  is not a translate of  $F$  we find, by similar arguments, that the set  $(H_\xi - (\bigcup_{\xi' < \xi} H_{\xi'} \cup \bigcup_{\xi' < \xi} A_{\xi'} \cup \bigcup_{\xi' < \xi} F_{\xi'})) \cap C$  is not empty. We choose  $M_\xi$  in this set and let  $F_\xi$  be the translate of  $F$  through  $M_\xi$ . We claim that the set  $D = E - \alpha$  is a  $j^{\text{th}}$  minimal hull for  $C$  which meets each analytic subset in at most a countable number of points. To show that all  $j^{\text{th}}$  projections of  $D$  coincide with those of  $C$ , it is enough to show that the  $j^{\text{th}}$  visual hull of  $D$  contains  $C$ . Let  $x$  be a point of  $C$  and let  $P$  be an  $(n - j)$ -flat through  $x$ . Then  $P$  is amongst  $\{H_\xi\}_{\xi < \Omega}$ , say  $P = H_{\xi'}$ . If  $M_{\xi'} \neq \alpha$  then  $M_{\xi'} \in D \cap H_{\xi'}$ . If  $M_{\xi'} = \alpha$  then  $\exists M_{\xi''}, \xi'' < \xi'$ , such that  $M_{\xi''} \in D \cap H_{\xi'}$ . In either case  $P$  meets  $D$  and so  $x \in H_j(D)$ .

If  $D$  is not minimal then there exists  $M_\xi, \xi < \Omega$ , such that

$$H_j(D - M_\xi) = C.$$

But, projecting  $C$  and  $D - M_\xi$  onto the orthogonal complement of  $F$  we see that by construction  $\text{proj } C \cap \text{proj } F_\xi \neq \emptyset$ , but  $\text{proj } (D - M_\xi) \cap \text{proj } F_\xi = \emptyset$ . Hence  $D$  is a  $j^{\text{th}}$  minimal hull for  $C$ . Finally, suppose that  $B$  is an uncountable analytic subset of  $D$ . If  $B$  has positive  $j$ -dimensional measure then it is possible to find an uncountable analytic subset of  $B$  of zero  $j$ -dimensional measure. Hence it can be supposed that  $B$  has zero  $j$ -dimensional measure and so  $B = A_\xi$  for some  $\xi < \Omega$ . But  $A_\xi = A_\xi \cap D \subset \bigcup_{\xi' < \xi} M_{\xi'}$ , which is countable; contradiction.

Of course, if  $G$  is an open or compact set in  $R^n$  then  $H_j(G)$  will accordingly be an open or compact set. Apart from these cases it does not seem entirely trivial to determine the nature of  $H_j(G)$  for a given subset  $G$  of  $R^n$ . Here we prove the following

**THEOREM 8.** (i) *There exists, in the plane  $R^2$ , a borel set  $C$  such that  $H_1(C)$  is analytic but not borel.*

(ii) If  $D$  is an  $F_\sigma$ -subset of  $R^n$  then  $H_j(D)$  is the complement of an analytic set.

REMARKS. We note that by (i) if  $C$  is analytic then  $H_1(C)$  is not necessarily the complement of an analytic set. To disprove the statement that whenever  $A$  is analytic then  $H_j(A)$  is analytic, it would be enough, using (ii), to find an  $F_\sigma$ -subset  $D$  of  $R^n$  such that  $H_j(D)$  is not borel. (Notice that, a subset,  $M$  of  $R^n$  is borel if and only if  $M$  and  $R^n - M$  are both analytic. Compare, for example, [5]).

*Proof.* (i) As already observed, every analytic set in  $R^1$  can be represented as the projection into  $R^1$  of some  $F_{\sigma\delta}$  set in  $R^2$ . Let  $A$  be an analytic subset of  $R^1$  such that  $A$  is not a borel set and let  $B$  be an  $F_{\sigma\delta}$  set in  $R^2$  such that  $\text{proj } B = A$ . Take  $C$  to be the union of  $B$  and the “ $y$ -axis”  $(R^1)^\perp$ . Then it is easily seen that  $H_1(C)$  is the union of all lines which are parallel to  $(R^1)^\perp$  and contain a point of  $C$ . However this is not a borel set as  $H_1(C) \cap R^1 = A \cup \{(0, 0)\}$  is not a borel set.

(ii) We define a complete separable metric space  $\Omega$ , whose points are the  $(n - j)$ -flats of  $R^n$ , as follows. For each  $(n - j)$ -flat  $F$  in  $R^n$  let  $y$  be the nearest point of  $F$  to 0 and set  $F \cap (S^{n-1} + y) = \hat{F}$ . Then the distance  $\rho(F, F')$  of two  $(n - j)$ -flats in  $\Omega$  is defined as the Hausdorff distance of  $\hat{F}, \hat{F}'$  in  $R^n$ . Let  $D \subset R^n$  be an  $F_\sigma$  set, say  $D = \bigcup_{i=1}^\infty D_i$  with  $D_i \subset D_{i+1}$ , each  $D_i$  compact,  $i = 1, 2, \dots$ . Let  $D_i^*$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots$  denote the closed subsets of  $\Omega$  such that  $F \in D_i^*$  if  $F$  meets  $D_i$  in  $R^n$ . Similarly defined, relative to  $D$ , is  $D^*$ . Then  $D^* = \bigcup_{i=1}^\infty D_i^*$  and so  $D^*$  is an  $F_\sigma$  subset of  $\Omega$ . Hence  $\Omega - D^*$  is a  $G_\delta$  set and so, in particular,  $\Omega - D^*$  is an analytic subset of  $\Omega$ . Set

$$\Omega - D^* = \sum_{i \in I} \bigcap_{p=1}^\infty A(i | p),$$

where the  $A(i | p)$ ,  $p = 1, 2, \dots$ , form a decreasing sequence of compact subsets of  $\Omega$ , for each  $i \in I$ . Set

$$B_m = \{x | x \in R^n, -m \leq x_i \leq m, i = 1, \dots, n\}.$$

Let  $K_m(i | p)$  be the closed subset of  $B_m$  such that  $x \in K_m(i | p)$  if  $x$  is contained in an  $(n - j)$ -flat  $F$  with  $F \in A(i | p)$ . Similarly, we define  $K_m \subset B_m$  relative to  $\Omega - D^*$ . Then  $K_m = \sum_{i \in I} \bigcap_{p=1}^\infty K_m(i | p)$  is an analytic subset of  $R^n$  and so, therefore, is  $K = \bigcup_{m=1}^\infty K_m$ . We claim that  $H_j(D) = R^n - K$ . If  $x \in K$  then  $x \in K_m$  for some  $m$  and so  $x$  is contained in some  $(n - j)$ -flat  $F$  which is contained (in  $\Omega$ ) in some set  $\bigcap_{p=1}^\infty A(i | p)$ . Hence  $F \in \Omega - D^*$  which means that  $F$  does not meet  $D$ ; i.e.,  $x \notin H_j(D)$ . Therefore  $R^n - K \supset H_j(D)$ . Conversely if  $x \notin H_j(D)$  then there exists an  $(n - j)$ -flat  $F$  through  $x$  such that  $F$  does not meet  $D$ . Hence  $F \in \Omega -$

$D^*$  and so  $F \in \bigcap_{p=1}^{\infty} A(i|p)$  for some  $i \in I$ . Hence  $x \in \bigcap_{p=1}^{\infty} K_m(i|p)$  for some positive integer  $m$ , i.e.,  $x \in K$ . Therefore  $R^n - K \subset H_j(D)$  and so  $H_j(D) = R^n - K$  is the complement of the analytic set  $K$ .

**DEFINITION.** An irregular point  $x$  of some closed convex set  $C$  in  $R^3$  is an extreme point  $x$  of  $C$  such that  $x$  lies in two distinct 1-faces  $l_1, l_2$  of  $C$ , with neither of  $l_1, l_2$  being contained in a 2-face of  $C$ . Let  $C$  be a closed subset of a simple closed curve in the plane  $OXY$ . We say that a set  $B \subset C \times (-\infty, \infty)$  is vertically convex if every line which is perpendicular to  $OXY$  meets  $B$  in a (possibly empty) line segment. We shall make use of the following immediate corollary to a theorem of K. Kunugui [7].

**LEMMA 3.** (*Kunugui*) *Let  $B$  be a vertically convex borel set in  $C \times (-\infty, \infty)$ . Then the projection of  $B$  into  $C$  is a borel set.*

As an immediate consequence of Lemma 3, we have

**LEMMA 4.** *Let  $B$  be a vertically convex borel subset of some vertically convex closed subset  $D$  in  $C \times (-\infty, \infty)$ . Then the set  $D \cap \{(\text{proj. } B) \times (-\infty, \infty)\}$  is a vertically convex borel set.*

In [9] the authors have derived properties of visual hulls for the class of convex sets. Our contribution in this direction is

**THEOREM 9.** (i) *If  $C$  is a convex borel (analytic) set in  $R^3$  then  $H_2(C)$  is a borel (analytic) set.*

(ii) *If  $C$  is a convex borel (analytic) set in  $R^3$  and  $\bar{C}$  does not have irregular points then  $H_1(C)$  is a borel (analytic) set.*

*Proof.* (i) We first show that if  $C$  is a convex borel (analytic) set in  $R^2$  then  $H_1(C)$  is a borel (analytic) set. If  $\dim C = 1$  then the result is trivial and so it can be supposed that  $\dim C = 2$ . Note that  $C^0 \subset H_1(C) \subset \bar{C}$ . Let the 1-faces of  $\bar{C}$  be  $\{F_i\}_{i=1}^{\infty}$ . Then

$$H_1(C) \cap (\bar{C} - \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} F_i) = C - \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} F_i,$$

which is a borel set. Let  $\{F_{i_\nu}\}_{\nu=1}^{\infty}$  be the 1-faces of  $\bar{C}$  which meet  $C$ . Then  $\text{relint } F_{i_\nu} \subset H_1(C) \cap F_{i_\nu}$ ,  $\nu = 1, 2, \dots$ . The two endpoints of  $F_{i_\nu}$  may, or may not, be in  $H_1(C)$ . Nevertheless,  $H_1(C)$  differs from the borel set  $(C - \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} F_i) \cup \bigcup_{\nu=1}^{\infty} \text{relint } F_{i_\nu}$  by at most a countable number of points. And so  $H_1(C)$  is a borel set. Similarly, if  $C$  is a convex analytic set in  $R^2$ , then  $H_1(C)$  is an analytic set. Suppose now that  $C$  is a convex borel set in  $R^3$ . If  $\dim C \leq 2$  then  $H_2(C) = C$ , and so

it can be supposed that  $\dim C = 3$ . Let  $\{F_i\}_{i=1}^\infty$  be an enumeration of the 2-faces of  $\bar{C}$ . Then each  $F_i$  is closed and  $H_2(C) \cap (\bar{C} - \bigcup_{i=1}^\infty F_i) = C \cap (\bar{C} - \bigcup_{i=1}^\infty F_i)$ , which is a borel set. As  $H_2(C) \subset \bar{C}$ , it is now enough to show that  $H_2(C) \cap F_i$  is a borel set for  $i = 1, 2, \dots$ . Let  $H_1'(C \cap F_i)$  denote the first visual hull of  $C \cap F_i$  relative to  $\text{aff } F_i$ . Then, from above,  $H_1'(C \cap F_i)$  is a borel set. Let  $\{F_{ij}\}_{j=1}^\infty$  be an enumeration of the 1-faces of  $F_i$ . Then  $H_2(C) \cap (F_i - \bigcup_{j=1}^\infty F_{ij}) = H_1'(C \cap F_i) - \bigcup_{j=1}^\infty F_{ij}$  which is a borel set  $K_i$ , say. Let  $\{F_{i\nu}\}_{\nu=1}^\infty$  be the 1-faces of  $F_i$  which meet  $C$  and have the property that the only plane of support to  $\bar{C}$  which contains  $F_{i\nu}$  is  $\text{aff } F_i$ . Then  $\text{relint } F_{i\nu} \subset H_2(C)$  and the end points of  $F_{i\nu}$  may or may not be in  $H_2(C)$ . Hence  $H_2(C) \cap F_i$  differs from the borel set  $K_i \cup (\bigcup_{\nu=1}^\infty \text{relint } F_{i\nu}) \cup (\bigcup_{j=1}^\infty (F_{ij} \cap C))$  by at most a countable number of points. Therefore  $H_2(C) \cap F_i$  is a borel set, and so, therefore, is  $H_2(C)$ . Similarly, it can be shown that if  $C$  is a convex analytic set in  $R^3$  then  $H_2(C)$  is an analytic set.

(ii) Again we shall prove the result for convex borel sets, and indicate at the end the modifications required for convex analytic sets. Let  $\{r_i\}_{i=1}^\infty$  be an enumeration of the rational numbers and let  $P_{ik}$  denote the 2-flat  $\{x \mid x_k = r_i\}$   $k = 1, 2, 3; i = 1, 2, \dots$ . For each  $i, j, k$ , let  $B(i, j, k)$  denote the closed set formed by the point set union of all maximal line segments in  $\bar{C} - C^0$  which meet both  $P_{ik}$  and  $P_{jk}$ . Let  $\{G_m\}_{m=1}^\infty$  be the 2-faces of  $\bar{C}$ . If a 2-face  $G_m$  of  $\bar{C}$  meets  $B(i, j, k)$  then  $G_m$  meets  $C_i (C_i = (\bar{C} - C^0) \cap P_{ik})$  and  $C_j (C_j = (\bar{C} - C^0) \cap P_{jk})$  in line segments  $1_{im}$  and  $1_{jm}$  respectively. Let  $1_m^1, 1_m^2$  denote the (at most) two maximal line segments in  $G_m$  such that each segment contains an endpoint of  $1_{im}$  and  $1_{jm}$  but  $1_m^1$  and  $1_m^2$  do not intersect except possibly at end points. Set  $C^* = (\bar{C} - C^0) \cap P$ , where  $P$  is a plane parallel to  $P_{ik}$  and lying strictly between  $P_{ik}$  and  $P_{jk}$ . Then  $G_m$  cuts  $C^*$  in an interval  $I_m$ . Let  $1_m$  denote the subinterval of  $I_m$  with endpoints  $1_m^1 \cap C^*, 1_m^2 \cap C^*$ , and let  $1_m^0$  be the relative interior of  $1_m$ . Then

$$C' = B(i, j, k) \cap \left( C^* - \bigcup_{m=1}^\infty 1_m^0 \right)$$

is a closed subset of  $C^*$ . If  $x \in C'$ , let  $\hat{x}$  denote the unique maximal line segment in  $B(i, j, k)$  which passes through  $x$  and meets  $C_1$  and  $C_2$ . Let  $X$  denote the closed set formed by the point set union of the line segments  $\hat{x}, x \in C'$ , and set  $Q(i, j, k) = \{y \mid y \in X, \exists x \in C', \hat{x} \cap C \neq \emptyset, y \in \hat{x}\}$ . We now show that  $Q(i, j, k)$  is a borel set. Every point  $y$  of  $X$  can be given a coordinate vector  $y = \langle x, h \rangle$ , where  $y \in \hat{x}$  and  $h$  is the height, relative to the  $j^{\text{th}}$  coordinate, of  $y$  above  $C^*$ . Because  $\bar{C}$  does not have irregular points, the number of points  $y$  in  $X$  which receive two different coordinate vectors is countable. Let  $\Phi$  be the mapping  $X \rightarrow C^* \times (-\infty, \infty)$  defined by taking  $\Phi \langle x, h \rangle = (x, h), x \in C'$ . Then  $K$  is a borel subset of  $X$  if and only if  $\Phi(K)$  is a borel subset of the

closed set  $\Phi(X)$ . Hence  $\Phi(C \cap X)$  is a vertically convex borel subset of  $C' \times (-\infty, \infty)$ . Hence the set  $D = X \cap \{\text{proj } \Phi(C \cap X) \times (-\infty, \infty)\}$  is a convex borel set and so  $Q(i, j, k) = \Phi^{-1}(D)$  is a borel set. Hence the set  $R(i, j, k) = Q(i, j, k) - \bigcup_{m=1}^{\infty} G_m$  is a borel set. Consider now the set  $S = \bigcup_{i,j,k} R(i, j, k)$  and consider the borel set  $T$  defined as the point set union of all 1-faces of  $\bar{C}$  which are not contained in some 2-face of  $\bar{C}$ . We assert that the set  $H_1^1(C) = H_1(C) \cap (T - \bigcup_{m=1}^{\infty} G_m)$  equals  $S$ . For if  $y \in H_1^1(C)$  then, because  $\bar{C}$  does not have any irregular points, there exists a unique 1-face  $l$ , not contained in  $\bigcup_{m=1}^{\infty} G_m$ , such that  $y \in l$ . Then  $y \in H_1(C)$  if and only if  $l \cap C = \emptyset$ , which happens if and only if  $l \subset Q(i, j, k)$  or in other words  $y \in R(i, j, k)$  for some  $i, j, k$ . Hence  $H_1^1(C) = S$ . Let  $V$  denote the borel set of exposed points of  $\bar{C}$  and  $H_1^2(C) = V \cap H_1(C)$ ,  $H_1^3(C) = \bigcup_{m=1}^{\infty} (H_1(C) \cap (G_m - V))$ . Now  $H_1(C) = H_1^1(C) \cup H_1^2(C) \cup H_1^3(C)$ .  $H_1^1(C) = S$  is a borel set and, since  $H_1^2(C) = V \cap C$ ,  $H_1^2(C)$  is a borel set. Hence it is enough to show that  $H_1(C) \cap (G_m - V)$  is a borel set for all  $m$ . Now let  $\{G_{m_\nu}\}_{\nu=1}^{\infty}$  be those 2-faces of  $\bar{C}$  which meet  $C$ . Then  $\text{relint } G_{m_\nu} \subset H_1^3(C)$  for all  $\nu$ . Let  $\{G_{m_\nu n}\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  be the 1-faces of  $G_{m_\nu}$ . Then either  $\text{relint } G_{m_\nu n} \subset H_1^3(C)$  or  $\text{relint } G_{m_\nu n} \cap H_1^3(C) = \emptyset$ . Then the endpoints of  $G_{m_\nu n}$  may or may not be in  $H_1^3(C)$ . Let  $H_{m_\nu}$  be the countable set of those endpoints of  $\{G_{m_\nu n}\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  which lie in  $H_1^3(C)$  and let  $\{G_{m_\nu n_\mu}\}_{\mu=1}^{\infty}$  be the 1-faces of  $G_{m_\nu}$  whose relative interiors are contained in  $H_1^3(C)$ . We have  $G_{m_\nu} \cap H_1^3(C) = \text{relint } G_{m_\nu} \cup (\bigcup_{\mu=1}^{\infty} \text{relint } G_{m_\nu n_\mu}) \cup H_{m_\nu}$ , which is a borel set. If, on the other hand, a 2-face of  $\bar{C}$  does not meet  $C$ , its intersection with  $H_1^3(C)$  is empty. Therefore  $H_1^3(C) \cap G_m$  is a borel set for all  $m$ , and  $H_1(C)$  is a borel set.

For the case when  $C$  is an analytic set, say  $C = \sum_{i \in I} \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} C(i | n)$  in the usual representation, the only modification required to the above proof is to show that the set  $Q(i, j, k)$  is an analytic set. With the previous notation,  $Q(i | n) = \{y | y \in X, \exists x \in C', \hat{x} \cap C(i | n) \neq \emptyset, y \in \hat{x}\}$ . Then  $Q(i | n)$  is a closed set and  $Q(i, j, k) = \sum_{i \in I} \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} Q(i | n)$ . Therefore  $Q(i, j, k)$  is an analytic set.

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